



HOPE

Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington D.C. 20554

Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE), an advocacy organization that works with legislators, community leaders and nonprofits to advance the interest of Latinas, would like to share with you its experience in working with Comcast. We hope that you take our opinion into consideration as you decide whether or not the Comcast/Time Warner Cable merger should move forward.

Comcast supports our mission of empowering Latinas, be they young women or seasoned professionals, with digital literacy skills that will alter their future. We have partnered with Comcast to bring its Internet Essentials skills training component to HOPE members and to spread the word about Internet Essentials' availability in our community. Comcast has recently announced that they will be extending Internet Essentials indefinitely. We at HOPE could not be more thrilled by this news as internet access helps all members of a family succeed. Children do better at school and parents have the ability to look for better employment. From our own study "Public Opinion Poll of California Latina Electorate 2009" – Latinas that have access to the Internet and an email address are significantly more likely to be informed about new state laws and the legislative process in Sacramento than Latina voters that are not connected to "new media." They are also more likely to get directly involved in organizations that focus on issues that impact on their careers and the quality of life of their families. We also found that the number one reason a low-income Latino family would purchase a computer and access the internet is to support their child's education, for these reasons ensuring a low cost option to internet access to Latinos is of importance to HOPE.

HOPE applauds Comcast's recent efforts to fulfill their commitment to bringing more diversity into their ranks. In the past three years, the number of women that hold senior-level positions at Comcast has increased by 36 percent. To achieve this Comcast has restructured their recruitment process to attract diversity talent into their hiring pools, directly addressing any shortcomings while many companies would simply claim that they somehow don't attract "the right candidates." Comcast continues to lead the way on the issue of diversity by offering more than 100 internal and external programs such as Comcast's Executive Leadership Career Advancement Program (ELCAP) and Comcast's Women in Leadership program. However, we see this only as a start and would encourage that Comcast not only continue their current diversity efforts but look to recruit a Latina Board member and ensure that in their procurement efforts that they lead the way in contracting with Latina small business owners.

If this proposed transaction is permitted to move forward, we look forward to working with Comcast and regulators to help ensure that there are low cost options to internet access; increased advancement of Latina executives within the Comcast workforce; a Latina to serve on the Comcast board; and increase procurement opportunities are offered to Latina small business owners. HOPE is in support of this merge with the understanding that Comcast will not only continue but grow their current efforts in the Latino community.

Sincerely,

Helen Iris Torres
Executive Director

Hispanas Organized for Political Equality

A Nonprofit Leadership, Advocacy and Education Organization

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